

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In accordance with this Preliminary Amendment, please replace the claims as originally submitted with those identified below.

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

26. (original) A locking door for an access opening in a flag pole configured to access a halyard system disposed internally in the flag pole, the locking door comprising:
a front door plate having a face surface and a back surface, the back surface having a radius of curvature configured to sit flush against an outer surface of the flag pole;
a rear door plate coupled to the back surface of the front door plate, the rear door plate having an outer periphery sized to be disposed within the access opening;
a lock housing having a front portion and a rear portion, the front portion exposed on the face surface of the front plate and having a key hole defined therein, the back portion protruding from the back surface of the front door plate; and
a locking extension member having a middle portion coupled to the rear portion of the lock housing and opposite free end portions extending from the middle portion, the locking extension member being operable to selectively lock and unlock the locking door.

27. (original) The locking door of claim 26, wherein the front door plate is sized to cover the access opening and the exposed fasteners used to fasten the holding member to the tube member within the flagpole.

28. (original) The locking door of claim 26, wherein the rear door plate is contoured to coincide with the contoured back surface of the front plate.

29. (original) The locking door of claim 26, wherein the locking extension member can be rotated to a locked position by inserting a key into the keyhole located on the outer surface of the locking door and positioning the locking extension member so the free ends are disposed horizontally against the inner surface of the flag pole with an interference fit.

30. (original) The locking door of claim 26, wherein the locking extension member can be rotated to an unlocked position by inserting a key into the keyhole located on the outer surface of the locking door and positioning the locking extension member so the free ends are disposed vertically preventing interference with the inner surface of the flag pole.

31. (new) A halyard system for suspending a flag on a flagpole, the halyard system comprising:

a flagpole;

a line member configured to extend and selectively advance about said flagpole to support a flag in one of several positions on said flagpole; and

a holding member configured to retain said line member, said holding member having a first portion coupled to a wall of said flagpole, and a second portion configured to extend outward from said wall,

said second portion having a wedge-shaped aperture formed therein that comprises a pass-through portion configured to receive said line member and to permit passage therethrough, and a binding portion configured to removably bind said line member and to prevent the advancement thereof through said holding member using a force-fit.

32. (new) The halyard system of claim 31, wherein said wedge-shaped aperture comprises opposing structural members configured to taper and converge as said second portion extends from said wall of said flagpole to provide said binding portion, said wedge-shaped aperture providing variable binding portions depending upon a size of said line member.

33. (new) The halyard system of claim 32, wherein said second portion of said holding member comprises an inclined configuration with respect to said inner wall, such that said second portion extends outward and upward from said first portion and said inner wall to urge said line member into said binding portion of said wedge-shaped aperture, and to increase said force-fit.

34. (new) The halyard system of claim 33, wherein said inclined configuration is configured to automatically cause said line member to be drawn into said binding portion in the event said line member is inadvertently caused to advance without user assistance.

35. (new) The halyard system of claim 31, wherein said holding member is configured to provide selective repositioning of said line member by releasing said line member from said binding portion, advancing said line member through said pass-through portion of said aperture a desired distance, and again causing said line member to be drawn into said binding portion.

36. (new) The halyard system of claim 31, wherein said flagpole comprises a tubular configuration defining outer and inner walls.

37. (new) The halyard system of claim 36, wherein said holding member is coupled to said inner wall of said flagpole.

38. (new) The halyard system of claim 37, wherein said flagpole comprises an opening formed therein to access said holding member as coupled to said inner wall.

39. (new) The halyard system of claim 38, further comprising a locking door operable with said opening to selectively control access to said holding member.

40. (new) The halyard system of claim 31, further comprising a weighted mass coupled to said flag to increase the tautness in said line member and a force acting within said line member having a tendency to advance said line member about said flagpole under gravity.

41. (new) The halyard system of claim 40, wherein said weighted mass structure is coupled at a location selected from the group consisting of a midsection of a peripheral side of the flag, an intersection of said peripheral side and a lower side of said flag, an intersection of

said peripheral side and an upper side of said flag, and within a hem of said peripheral side of said flag

42. (new) The halyard system of claim 40, wherein said weighted mass structure comprises first and second magnetic structures configured for placement on opposing sides of said flag.

43. (new) The halyard system of claim 31, further comprising a plurality of weighted mass structures.

44. (new) The halyard system of claim 31, wherein said line member has a positionable obstruction member coupled near a terminal end to prevent said line member from passing completely through said aperture of the holding member.

45. (new) The halyard system of claim 31, wherein said holding member comprises a unitary structure.

46. (new) A halyard system for suspending a flag on a flagpole, the halyard system comprising:

a flagpole comprising a tubular configuration having an inner wall;

a line member configured to extend and selectively advance through said flagpole to support a flag in one of several positions about said flagpole; and

a holding member configured to retain said line member, said holding member having a first portion coupled to said inner wall of said flagpole, and a second portion configured to extend outward from said inner wall,

said second portion having an aperture formed therein that comprises a pass-through portion configured to receive said line member and to permit passage therethrough,

said aperture also comprising a binding portion configured to bind said line member and to prevent the advance thereof through said holding member using a force-fit.

47. (new) A method for suspending a flag on a flagpole, said method comprising:
obtaining a flagpole having a tube configuration and that is operable with a line member
to support a flag on said flagpole, said flagpole comprising a holding member
secured to an inner wall thereof and having an aperture formed therein; and
causing said line member to be drawn into a binding portion of said aperture, said binding
portion being configured to bind said line member using a force-fit to prevent the
advance of said line member through said aperture and said holding member, and
to therefore retain said line member and said flag in a desired position.

48. (new) The method of claim 47, further comprising releasing said line member
from said binding portion to advance said line member through said holding member.

49. (new) The method of claim 48, further comprising:
advancing said line member through said aperture a desired distance to reposition said
line member; and
causing said line member to again be drawn into said binding portion.